UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/84
28 February 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Item 93 (d) of the preliminary list*

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly, having considered the note by the Secretary-General concerning the progress of the negotiations on the convention carried out by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/48/226 and Add.1), urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to complete the negotiations successfully by June 1994, in accordance with resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1993.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held its third session at Headquarters from 17 to 28 January 1994. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the General Assembly, annexed to the present note, the report on that session.

---

* A/49/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its third session

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 17 to 28 January 1994. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992. At its third session, the Committee held three meetings (1st to 3rd), on 17, 24 and 28 January 1994.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers of the Committee

2. The Bureaux of the Committee and its Working Groups, as elected at its organizational, first and second sessions, are as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. René Valéry Mongbe (Benin)
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikita F. Glazovsky (Russian Federation)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Erwin Ortíz Gandarillas (Bolivia)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. A. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

Working Group II

Chairman: Ms. Anne De Lattre (France)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Morad-Ali Ardeshiri (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick E. G. Mallya (United Republic of Tanzania)

B. Adoption of the agenda

3. At its 1st meeting, on 17 January, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

3. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:

   (a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

   (b) Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

4. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the fourth session and organization of work for the final stages of negotiations.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

C. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau

Holy See
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

5. The following United Nations organs and bodies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Arab Maghreb Union, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Centre for Environment and Development, Arab Region and Europe, Commission of the European Communities, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Southern African Development Community and Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of the Soil.

8. The following national liberation movement was represented: Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Africa Harvest Mission, Association des Volontaires pour le Développement, Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Both Ends, Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement, Centre international de Droit comparé de l'Environnement, Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, Confédération des ONG d'Environnement et de Développement de l'Afrique centrale, Consejo Andino de Manejo Ecológico, Coordination in Development, Inc., Earthaction Network, Environment Liaison Centre International, Environment Policy and Society, Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde, Fondation Paix et Développement, Fundaçao Grupo Esquel Brasil, Fundación Rio Parnaiba, Guamina, Haribon Foundation, INAFORM, Instituto de Pre-Historia, Antropología e Ecología, Interdisciplinary Center for Technological Analysis and Forecasting, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Synergy Institute, KENGO Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Kindernothilfe, Les Amis de la Terre - Togo, Lutheran World Federation, Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), Proterra, Sahel Defís: Développement Environnement Formation Insertion Sociale, Service Extension and Action Research for Communities in the Hills (SEARCH-NEPAL), Solidarity Canada Sahel, Synergos Institute, Inc., Third World Network, Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement, Women's Environment and Development Organization, World Conservation Union and ZERO.

D. Documentation

10. The documents before the Committee at its second session are listed in annex I to the present report.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

11. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 and 24 January, the Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the

accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/AC.241/9/Add.4 and 5 (see annex II, decision 3/1).

IV. ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

A. Reports of the working groups

1. Report of Working Group I

12. At the 3rd meeting, on 28 January, the Vice-Chairman of Working Group I, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria), introduced the report of Working Group I (A/AC.241/WG.I/L.2), as adopted.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the report of Working Group I (see annex III, sect. 1).

2. Report of Working Group II

14. At the 3rd meeting, on 28 January, the Chairman of Working Group II, Ms. Anne De Lattre (France), introduced the report of Working Group II (A/AC.241/WG.II/L.2), as adopted.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the report of Working Group II (see annex III, sect. 2).

V. REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

16. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 24 and 28 January, the Committee considered agenda item 3, "Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds". For its discussion of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.241/16 and Add.1).

17. The Executive Secretary made an opening statement in which he presented an account of the voluntary contributions made to both the Special Voluntary Fund for developing countries' participation and the Trust Fund for preparatory activities. He thanked those countries and international organizations which had responded to the appeals for additional funding made during the second session of the Committee. He underlined the difficulties encountered in financing participation at the third session. He also expressed concern about the participation of developing countries at the fourth and fifth sessions: some $800,000 would be needed in order to maintain the current level of support to one delegate from each of some 70 countries affected by desertification and drought and requesting assistance for their participation. If funding did not reach that level in time, it would be necessary to cut back assistance, probably

by restricting recipients to the least developed countries. Some delegations made comments or sought further clarification on the utilization of the resources available to the Secretariat.

18. In concluding the discussions, the Chairman of the Committee urged Member States to contribute effectively to the funds so as to enable the Secretariat to undertake the activities envisaged in an efficient and timely way.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

A. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the fourth session

19. At its 3rd meeting, on 28 January, the Committee decided to approve the draft provisional agenda for its second session (see annex II, decision 3/2).

B. Future work of the Committee

20. At its 3rd meeting, the Committee agreed to the following points regarding its future work as outlined by the Chairman:

(a) The Secretariat should prepare a revised version of the negotiating text of the Convention (A/AC.241/15/Rev.1) as soon as possible, based on the negotiations at the third session;

(b) The Secretariat should prepare a negotiating text on a regional instrument for Africa based on the elements contained in the note by the Secretariat on possible format and elements of a regional implementation annex for Africa (A/AC.241/17) and on the comments made during the discussion in Working Group II. It was noted that, at that time, some delegations had indicated that they might elaborate their comments in writing and that delegations wishing to do so would have to submit such comments without delay;

(c) It was understood that all questions relating to regional instruments would be considered by the fourth session;

(d) The fourth session should be organized in such a way that the negotiations would be concluded by June 1994, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/191.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRD SESSION

21. At its 3rd meeting, on 28 January, the Committee adopted the draft report on its second session, as contained in document A/AC.241/L.16, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in cooperation with the Chairman and the Bureau by incorporating therein the proceedings of the 2nd and 3rd meetings.

Annex I

List of documents before the Committee at its third session

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/9/Add.4 and 5	1	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
A/AC.241/14	1	Provisional agenda for the third session
A/AC.241/15 and Corr.1	2	Note by the Secretariat containing a negotiating text of the convention
A/AC.241/16 and Add.1	3	Note by the Executive Secretary on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/17	2	Note by the Secretariat on possible format and elements of a regional implementation annex for Africa
A/AC.241/L.15	2	Note by the Secretariat on definition of terms relating to the convention
A/AC.241/L.16	5	Draft report of the Committee on its third session
A/AC.241/WG.I/L.2	2	Draft report of Working Group I
A/AC.241/WG.II/L.2	2	Draft report of Working Group II
A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1-4	2	Revised negotiating text of the convention
A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.1-6	2	Revised negotiating text of the convention

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the International Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at its third session

Decision 3/1

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 and 24 January 1994 the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the accreditation of the following non-governmental organizations:

Aide au Sahel
Association malienne pour le Développement
Association malienne pour la Promotion du Sahel
Association pour la Promotion des Batwa
Both Ends
Centre for Our Common Future
Centre international de Droit comparé de l'Environnement
Christian Care
Club UNESCO féminin "La Colombe"
Collectif des Organisations non gouvernementales actives en Côte d'Ivoire
Council of Swaziland Churches
Development Alternatives Network
Environment and Development Resource Centre
Environment Development Society
Environmental Policy and Society
European Environmental Bureau
Fédération des Associations des Parents d'eléves du Cameroun
Fédération des ONG au Togo
Fondation René Dumont
Fondation Paix et Développement
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Fundación Habitat
Fundación Patagonia Natural
Gilma Youngsters

Groupe de Recherche Action pour la Promotion économique et sociale

Institute of Development Studies

Instituto de Investigación de Zonas Desérticas de la Universidad Autónoma de San Luís Potosi

Interdisciplinary Center for Technological Analysis and Forecasting

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

Kindernothilfe

Laboratoire de Géographie physique zonale

Lesotho Council of NGOs

Movimiento Ambientalista Nicaraguense

Namibia Development Trust

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Swaziland

Protection and Preservation of Nature and Environment in Albania

Rajastan Pradesh Bharat Sevak Samaj

Sahel Solidarité

Secrétariat de Concertation des ONG maliennes

Service Extension and Action Research for Communities in the Hills (SEARCH-NEPAL)

Solidarité humaine

SOS Nature

Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation

Trust-Help

World Learning, Inc.

Yonge Nawe Environmental Action Group

Zambia Alliance of Women

Decision 3/2

Draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

At its 3rd meeting, on 28 January 1994, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, adopted the following draft provisional agenda for its fourth session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

3. Review of the situation as regard extrabudgetary funds:

   (a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

   (b) Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

4. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the fifth session.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session.

Annex III

1. Report of Working Group I

A. Organization of work

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 17 January, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with its decision 2/1 of 13 September 1993 (see A/48/226/Add.1, appendix II), allocated item 2 of its agenda, entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa", to the working groups. Working Group I would be responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as the preamble, principles and objectives, commitments, national and regional action programmes, capacity-building, education and public awareness, and financial resources and mechanisms.

2. At the 1st meeting of Working Group I, on 17 January, the Acting Chairman (Benin) made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Working Group approved its programme of work for 17 to 28 January 1994. Subsequently it held 16 meetings during that period.

4. Working Group I had before it for its consideration a note by the Secretariat entitled "Negotiating text of the convention" (A/AC.241/15 and Corr.1) prepared on the basis of the text entitled "Compilation of government views, statements and drafting proposals" (A/AC.241/12), containing written submissions from Governments and taking into account statements made at the second session of the Committee.

B. Discussion of topics

1. Preamble

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

5. Working Group I considered the topic at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 and 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 50 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

6. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 10th and 11th meetings, on 24 and 25 January. It had before it a document entitled "First revision of the preamble, article 2 and article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of 42 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

8. An observer made a statement.

2. Objectives

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

9. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting, on 13 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 31 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

10. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 11th meeting, on 25 January. It had before it the document entitled "First revision of the preamble, article 2 and article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

11. Statements were made by the representatives of 28 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

12. An observer made a statement.

3. Principles

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

13. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting, on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 20 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

14. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 11th and 13th meetings, on 25 and 26 January. It had before it the document entitled "First revision of the preamble, article 2 and article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

15. Statements were made by the representatives of eight States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

4. Commitments

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

16. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting, on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 45 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.2)

17. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 12th meeting on 25 January. It had before it a document entitled "First revision of part II, general provisions" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.2), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

18. Statements were made by the representatives of 44 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and one speaking on behalf of some eastern European and central Asian countries.

19. Statements were made by the observers of two non-governmental organizations.

5. National and regional action programmes

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

20. Working Group I considered the topic at its 5th to 8th meetings on 19 to 21 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 55 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

21. Statements were made by the representatives of two United Nations specialized agencies. Statements were also made by the representatives of two non-governmental organizations.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.3)

22. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 13th, 14th and 16th meetings, on 26 and 27 January. The Working Group had before it the document entitled "First revision of part II, general provisions"

(A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.3), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

23. Statements were made by the representatives of 40 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

24. An observer made a statement. Statements were also made by the observer of an intergovernmental organization and an observer of a non-governmental organization.

6. Capacity-building, education and public awareness

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

25. Working Group I considered these topics at its 8th meeting, on 21 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 26 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

26. Statements were made by the observers of two non-governmental organizations.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4)

27. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 15th meeting, on 27 January. It had before it a document entitled "Capacity-building, education and public awareness" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

28. Statements were made by the representatives of 34 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

29. An observer made a statement.

7. Financial resources and mechanisms

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

30. Working Group I discussed the topic at its 9th and 10th meetings, on 21 and 24 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 33 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4)

31. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 16th meeting, on 27 January. It had before it a document entitled "Financial resources and mechanisms" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

32. Statements were made by the representatives of seven States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

33. An observer of a non-governmental organization made a statement.

C. Adoption of the report

34. At the 16th meeting, on 27 January, the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. A. Ovchinnikov, introduced the draft report (A/AC.241/WG.I/L.2).

35. At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted the draft report.

2. Report of Working Group II

A. Organization of work

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 17 January, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with its decision 2/1 of 13 September 1993 (see A/48/226/Add.1, appendix II), allocated item 2 of its agenda, entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" to the working groups. Working Group II would be responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as definitions, institutional, administrative, technological and scientific aspects; research, data collection and exchange information; procedural arrangements and other legal provisions such as any instruments relating to the convention.

2. At the 1st meeting of Working Group II, on 17 January, the Chairman made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Working Group approved its programme of work for 17 to 28 January 1994. Subsequently it held 18 meetings during that period.

4. Working Group II had before it for its consideration a note by the Secretariat entitled "Negotiating text of the convention" (A/AC.241/15 and Corr.1), prepared on the basis of the "Compilation of government views, statements and drafting proposals" (A/AC.241/12), written submissions from Governments and statements made at the second substantive session of the Committee.

B. Discussion of topics

1. Definitions

First reading (A/AC.241/15, article 1)

5. An informal working group was established to review the definitions of technical terms. It was decided that the results would be examined at the fourth session.

6. Working Group II considered the topic at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 and 18 January. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the definition of terms relating to the Convention (A/AC.241/L.15 and Corr.1).

7. Statements were made by the representatives of 38 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

8. At the 1st meeting, a statement was made by the representative of a United Nations specialized agency. A statement was also made by the representative of an intergovernmental organization.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.1)

9. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 11th meeting, on 25 January. It had before it a document entitled "Use of terms" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topic.

10. Statements were made by the representatives of 27 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

2. Technology transfer and cooperation

First reading (A/AC.241/15, article 20)

11. Working Group II considered the topic at its 2nd meeting, on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 21 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States.

12. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of an intergovernmental organization.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.2)

13. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 12th meeting, on 25 January. It had before it a document entitled "Transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.2), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topic.

14. Statements were made by the representatives of 29 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

3. Research and development

First reading (A/AC.241/15, article 19)

15. The Working Group discussed the topic at its 3rd meeting, on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 31 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

16. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of a United Nations specialized agency. A statement was also made by the representative of an intergovernmental organization.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.3)

17. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 13th meeting, on 25 January. It had before it a document entitled "Research and development" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.3), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topic.

18. Statements were made by the representatives of 27 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

4. Information collection, analysis and exchange

First reading (A/AC.241/15, article 18)

19. Working Group II discussed the topic at its 4th meeting, on 19 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 27 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

20. A statement was also made by the representative of a United Nations specialized agency.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.4)

21. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 13th and 16th meetings, on 25 and 26 January. It had before it a document entitled "Information collection, analysis and exchange" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topic.

22. Statements were made by the representatives of 25 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

5. Institutions

First reading (A/AC.241/15, articles 24-27)

23. The Working Group considered the topic at its 5th to 8th meetings, from 19 to 21 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 50 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

24. At the 7th and 8th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of two United Nations specialized agencies. At the 8th meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of an intergovernmental organization.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.5)

25. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 16th to 18th meetings, on 26 and 27 January. It had before it a document entitled "Institutions" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.5), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topic.

26. Statements were made by the representatives of 32 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

6. Procedures

First reading (A/AC.241/15, articles 28-35)

27. Working Group II considered the topic at its 9th and 10th meetings, on 21 and 24 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 25 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.6)

28. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 18th meeting, on 27 January. It had before it a document entitled "Procedures and final clauses" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.6), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion during the first reading of the topics of procedures and final clauses.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of 17 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

7. Final clauses

First reading (A/AC.241/15, articles 36-42)

30. Working Group II considered the topic at its 10th and 11th meetings, on 24 and 25 January. Statements were made by the representatives of eight States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

31. On the basis of the discussion held on the topic, a document entitled "Procedures and final clauses" (A/AC.241/WG.II/CRP.6) was prepared by the Secretariat, which reflected the revisions to articles 36 to 42 proposed as a result of the first reading.

8. Regional instrument for Africa

32. The Working Group considered the topic at its 14th and 15th meetings, on 26 January, and had before it a note by the Secretariat on a possible format and elements of a regional implementation annex for Africa (A/AC.241/17).

33. At the 14th meeting, on 26 January, the Executive Secretary of the Committee made an introductory statement.

34. Statements were made by the representatives of 37 States, including one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

35. There was a discussion and exchange of views on the document presented by the Secretariat on the regional instrument for Africa. Representatives thanked the Secretariat for its good work; however, they expressed the need to have a focused, region-specific and flexible instrument. They recognized the complexity of legal aspects relating to regional instruments and the need to maintain a priority on Africa. Representatives expressed the opinion that the document, as presented by the Secretariat, could constitute a basis for all the regional instruments.

36. The Secretariat of the Committee was requested to prepare for the fourth session a first draft of a consolidated text on the regional instrument for Africa, which would take into account the informal paper on an implementation annex for Africa, prepared by the Organization for African Unity, and the observations and proposals made by representatives during their consideration of the topic at the third session.

37. The Working Group concluded that it would also be possible to identify those elements which could be included in other regional instruments.

C. Adoption of report

38. At the 18th meeting, on 27 January, the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Frederick E. G. Mallya, introduced the draft report (A/AC.241/WG.II/L.2).

39. At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted the draft report as revised and amended.